



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Tuesday, August 27, 2013 DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Minneapolis Central Library – Doty Board Room

NCEC member attendees: Doron Clark, Denis Houle, Andy Hortillosa, Ishmael Israel, Henry Jimenez, Mariah Levison, Kenya McKnight, Abdi Muse, Carol Pass Kirk Roggensack, Jeffrey Strand and Tessa Wetjen

NCEC members excused: Brittany Lewis, Marcea Mariani and Jeffrey Martin

NCEC members absent: Saciido Shaie

Commission staff: Howard Blin, Cheyenne Brodeen, Lance Knuckles
Guests: Charleen Zimmer (ZAN Associates) and Grace Wachlarowicz (Minneapolis Elections Department).

Agenda Item

Content

1.Introduction

(Action)

A. Agenda. Remove item 6C as action item and move action item 7 to the beginning of agenda after item 2 and before item 3.

During the introductions Commissioner Hortillosa mentioned the upcoming Monarch Festival, Commissioner Israel mentioned Northside Family Day, Commissioner Strand noted "Discovery Victory" marketing pens from the Victory Neighborhood as well as the Camden Farmer's Market, Commissioner Clark mentioned the Audubon Park Farmer's Market.

Commissioner Wetjen asked that the One Minneapolis Task Force agenda item be removed and the report be pushed back one meeting cycle since the task force has not met recently. No objections were noted. Motion Jimenez to amend the agenda and move the NCEC Officers Elections item up in the agenda, Seconded by Hortillosa. Discussion to ensure that other presenters were able to adjust. Motion carried. Motion by Wetjen, Seconded by McKnight to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Executive Committee

Reports

(Informational and Action)

Chair Report:

The Chair reported that it was a light month of meetings. The Executive Committee has prepared a projected schedule of NCEC activities to look at annual work at a glance. It will be helpful so that the committee knows

what work will be happening at any given time.

Secretary Report:

A. Minutes. Motion by Strand, Seconded by Clark to approve the July 23, 2013 minutes with the addition to add Henry Jimenez to the NCEC members present section. Motion carried unanimously.

Attendance Report: Commissioners Lewis, Mariani and Martin reported their absences to staff prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner McKnight asked whether the NCR business plan in the scope of the NCEC? Thought it was not, however it is on the schedule of NCEC activities.
 - Mr. Blin responded to clarify that the NCR business plan is reviewed by the NCEC, the budget is not, however.

**2.5. Selection of
NCEC Officers**
(Action)

Summary:

The NCEC bylaws call for election of officers at the July meeting. To allow all members an opportunity to participate in the selection, at the July meeting the Commission postponed the election of officers until the August meeting.

Chair:

Nominations for the Chair were as follows: Israel.

Commissioner Israel disclosed that he is running for the Park Board and would have to step down from the NCEC if he was elected in November.

Motion: Clark moved to suspend the ballot process and elected the Chair by acclamation, Hortillosa seconded the motion, all approved. Chair Israel handed the meeting gavel over to Vice Chair Wetjen who handled the election process for chair.

The motion to elect Israel as the Chair was approved unanimously.

Vice-Chair:

Nominations for the Vice-Chair were as follows: Wetjen Strand, Clark, Levison and McKnight. Commissioner Wetjen declined and announced that she is having another baby. Commissioner Strand through the Chair asked if any of the women members were interested in serving, since the bylaws make reference to considering gender balance in the leadership. Wetjen, Clark, Strand and Levison declined the nomination.

Motion: Clark moved to suspend the ballot process and elected the Vice-Chair by acclamation, Strand seconded the motion, all approved.

The motion to elect McKnight as the Vice-Chair was approved unanimously.

2nd Vice –Chair:

Nominations for the 2nd Vice –Chair were as follows: Jiménez and Clark. Jimenez declined the nomination.

Motion: Strand moved to suspend the ballot process and elected the 2nd Vice-Chair by acclamation, Houle seconded the motion, all approved.

The motion to elect Clark as the 2nd Vice-Chair was approved unanimously.

Secretary:

Nominations for the Secretary were as follows, Strand.

Motion: Clark moved to suspend the ballot process and elected the Secretary by acclamation, Wetjen seconded the motion, all approved.

The motion to elect Strand as the Secretary was approved unanimously.

3. Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Analysis (Informational)

Summary: Charleen Zimmer of ZAN Associates, the acting project manager for the study described the study and answered questions from the Commission. She explained that the study is in the final stages and some outreach still needs to be done. There is information about upcoming meetings, public comment period and a survey on the website (www.minneapolis.gov/nicollet-central). The newsletter and survey for the project is available in Spanish, Hmong and Somali.

The public comment period has been extended to September 15th. There will also be a Public Hearing at the City Councils Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting on September 24th. Here the Council will be considering what transit option to choose and what bridge to cross the river into Northeast (either the 3rd Avenue or Hennepin Avenue bridges).

There are still additional work and implementation strategies to be done. There are dollars in the Mayors budget being proposed to continue the transportation improvements in this corridor.

Commissioner Comments:

- What is a streetcar? Does it require rails or does it move on its own?
 - The study is talking about a modern street car system which is very similar to the light rail system, but smaller. It operates on rail and in-mixed traffic. The street car is more expensive than enhanced bus improvements, but it does attract more riders. The street car has also demonstrated in other communities that it is a good catalyst for community development
- Has there been any official decision made about the Kmart?
 - This study did assume that Nicollet will be open but there is an alternative in the study that had the alignment running between 28th Avenue South and Lake Street using Blaisdell Avenue.
- Have Columbia Heights or Anoka County been involved in this process?
 - Both have been involved in the committee and they have been coordinated with.

- What has your outreach process to under-represented communities been - how have you done that?
 - We have reached out and connected to any organizations that we have been made aware of. We offered to talk to their group and make presentations. We have also reached out to certain housing locations. Went out on National Night Out also have always tried to publish information in other languages and we have had interpreters at all meetings.
- Have any of the plans changed because of what you've learned in the outreach process
 - The number of residents involved with the study has expanded over time, but the approach hasn't changed. Neighborhoods in Northeast have wanted to see the initial segment of the corridor, referred to as the short line, extended further out.
- How close are downtown stops to the Light Rail?
 - The stops are planned every two blocks, essentially the same stops on Nicollet Mall today.
- How were these neighborhoods and routes chosen?
 - Minneapolis conducted a Streetcar Feasibility Study in 2007 which looked at several potential corridors for building streetcar lines. The Nicollet and Central Avenue corridors ranked the highest among those corridors.
- What does economic development mean? Nicollet Avenue is very diverse and I would hate to see those businesses have to move.
 - The economic development potential was looked at in nine geographic areas along the corridor that were seen as an areas prime for redevelopment. Areas like the Kmart, by the convention center and Shoreham Yards for example. They all align with the proposed routes. This idea is that running the street car through those areas, transformative development might occur.
- How do you protect and sustain small businesses and what are the construction impacts to those businesses? These are questions that need to be addressed.

- What kind of engagement is being done with the transportation systems that are already working? Route 18 is the most popular bus route in the city.
 - They are looking at an enhanced bus alternative, adding busses, increasing frequency and improving stops.
- Where is the engagement data and how was that used to inform the set of recommendations that are being made.
 - Last spring a broad range of alternatives were being looked at that would be used to hone in on what alternatives would be studied.
- Can you explain the demographics information?
 - Income, race and affordable housing are all important factors and one of the reasons the short lines were selected is because for 1/3 of the distance of the line we can serve over 2/3rd of those populations.
- A Commissioner questioned how the line could not have been sited along Interstate 94 and up through Camden if economic development and to serve more low income and people of color and where the need was greater. A line is needed in the Camden area instead. Concerned about east/west connections including other lines that connect with this, and not just stops alone. The Commissioner would have preferred to see the lines go through the old redirection neighborhoods in the Northside instead.
- A commissioner who lives in the corridor stated they had no idea about the project and believed there should be more outreach. Are there plans to hire more minority people during the construction? The Commissioner noted that the NCEC sits as one of the direct links for citizen engagement, that efforts seemed lackluster in terms of reaching out to under-engaged communities. The same scenario echos over and over again for these large scale projects and sends a message to residents of under-engaged communities that these projects are not for them.

4. NRP Policy Board Report (Action)

Summary: Commissioner Strand, 2013 Policy Board Chair, provided an overview of the role of the reconstituted NRP Policy Board for the benefit of NCEC

members. The July 16, 2013 meeting contained an informational update about the Community Participation Program. Strand noted the substantive actions taken by the Policy Board in recent months in 2013 (revision of NRP and NPP Policies; approval of Neighborhood Priority Plans). The NRP Policy Board is responsible for reviewing and approving NRP Neighborhood Action Plans and modifications to existing plans. In addition, the Board reviews and approves Neighborhood Action Plans. The Board meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. For the past year the Board has met from 5:00 to 7:00 PM every other month.

Representation from the Commission to the NRP Policy Board is called for in the 2011 City Council Resolution which repurposed the Policy Board. Initially there was some question as to whether the NCEC representatives should be drawn from only the elected members or should all elected and appointed member be eligible for to serve on the Policy Board. The adopted resolution calls for the Policy Board representatives to be drawn from the full membership of the commission. Commissioner Strand mentioned the current Policy Board members are Commissioners Pass, Shaie, McKnight, and Strand. Commissioner Israel handled the nominations and election process.

Commissioner Israel noted that he had a note from Commissioner Jimenez, who had to leave earlier, that he was interested in serving on the Policy Board. Nominations for the NRP Policy Board are as follows: Jimenez, Martin, Strand, Hortillosa, Roggensack and Levison. All nominations were accepted.

The Chair concluded that proxy voting was not going to be permitted for the election. A ballot was cast and Commissioners Jimenez, Levison, Roggensack and Strand were chosen via signed secret ballot.

5. Blueprint for Equity Update (Informational)

Lance Knuckles explained that we are still in the process of scheduling outreach meetings. The timeline for the outreach process has been extended into next year to ensure that many organizations are reached. He also shared the new Neighborhood assignments for the

Access and Outreach staff. They will be reaching out to neighborhood and cultural communities to continue scheduling the meetings. Mr. Knuckles stated that he wants this strategy to be strategic and to support the continuity that the NCEC has supported in the past. He said moving forward his team will be the point of contact to reach out to the neighborhood organizations and to request the scheduling the listening session for the Blueprint for Equity. He said this support is very strategic and not forceful, coming from a place that neighborhoods want that support.

Grace Wachlarowicz from the City's Elections Department shared information about the City's new Voter Ambassador Program. She also explained that there will be mock elections during the month of September. The information will be posted on the website: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>.

Commissioner Comments:

- Blueprint for Equity: NCR was applauded for weaving the dialogue about the Blueprint with the Community Participation Program 2014-2016 meetings with neighborhoods. It was suggested that the department and NCEC need to ramp up work on the Blueprint. A comment was made about how the staff assignments align with NCEC commissioner districts.
- A commissioner asked about the Native American Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Knuckles responded and described the formal MOU relationship with the Native community and that he recently met with that community about the Blueprint for Equity.
- This is a great concept, is there any financial support for this project. A commissioner suggested that additional financial support is needed to help neighborhoods connect with cultural communities in this outreach effort.
 - A conversation about funding has not happened yet, however, there is a resource capacity that isn't financial.
- A commissioner asked about the definition of equity that the NCR is using. Mr. Knuckles responded about the definition adapted from another organization. A commissioner asked the department to clarify the role

of NCEC commissioners in outreach on the Blueprint for Equity.

- Can the department goals for 2013 be shared with the new commissioners?
- A commissioner has received feedback from a community organization and would like to see some account of what has happened at some of these meetings? Can notes be provided? A request from a number of neighborhoods and individuals have asked to meet collectively and to share information between neighborhoods. They seek to learn from neighborhoods that are doing well in order to share information and encourage other neighborhoods “to get busy” and see ways to connect. The question from old NRP background is how to do inclusion in housing, or how to do inclusion in economic development for example. They are looking for deeper, less hierarchical connections; not just connecting to downtown.

Chair Israel announced the results of the NRP Policy Board elections for 2013-2014 neighborhood representatives: Strand, Jimenez, Levison, and Roggensack.

6. Task Force Reports (Action)

A. Committee of the Whole: At the August 14th CoW meeting NCR staff gave an in-depth presentation of the Community Participation Program. There were two outcomes with requests of information from NCR to the NCEC. There was also additional discussion about what the role of the NCEC is through the evaluation process of the CPP proposals. Possibly the Neighborhood Specialists could generate a report or summary of the proposals received each month.

B. Policies and Procedures Task Force:

Chair Israel described the last meeting of the Task Force and the proposed manual created by the Task Force. Commissioner Clark suggested that the body table the item due to the consequential elements in the proposed manual (e.g. attendance) that deserve more time for discuss and dialogue.

Motion: Strand moved to table the approval of the

report to the September NCEC meeting, Clark seconded. Commissioner Pass noted that some of the provisions are controversial and should be discussed. Commissioner Houle supports the motion to table, but suggested in the future that the commission should decide items that are scheduled for meetings when they are scheduled. The NCEC needs to look at when we discuss things that we plan to discuss. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner McKnight had further questions to gain clarity about the Community Participation Program from the Committee of the Whole meeting. Chair Israel recapped the items from the meeting minutes that were circulated. The Chair asked Commissioner Strand to respond, and he did so regarding the commitments made by Director Rubedor to bringing the NCEC closer to the CPP and work of the NCR with the neighborhood organizations. Chair Israel noted that with the 3-year funding cycle for the CPP for this term that we as a commission need to address concerns about the guidelines in a timely fashion so that comments and concerns can be vetted by staff.

Commissioner Strand offered to coordinate an orientation meeting for the new NRP Policy Board members with Mr. Blin from NCR, if new members are interested.

Adjourn

The August 27, 2013 meeting was adjourned by Chair Israel at 7:14p.m.